

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces the listings of the claims in the present patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method for processing data in which the data is encrypted, decrypted on a basis of a decryption bit length, and thereby read, comprising the steps of:
 - encrypting the data,
 - omitting a part of the data with a bit length different from [[the]] a decryption bit length, and
 - closing the omitted part so as to make the data continuous.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The method for processing data according to claim 1, further comprising the step of compressing said data before encryption.
3. **(Previously Presented)** The method for processing data according to claim 1, further comprising the step of, after closing the omitted part so as to make the data continuous, adding dummy data having the same bit length as that of the omitted data at the end of the data.
4. **(Previously Presented)** The method for processing data according to claim 1, wherein the bit length of the omitted data is a bit length different from a divisor of the decryption bit length.
5. **(Previously Presented)** The method for processing data according to claim 3, in which the data which is omitted has a plurality of omitted data parts, wherein a product of the bit length of the omitted data and the number of omissions is a bit length different from the divisor of the decryption bit length.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for reading data using a data reading device for reading the data processed by the processing data method according to claim 1, and recorded in advance on a recording medium ~~or on an auxiliary storage section of the data reading device~~, and which is a system comprising:

electronic equipment having an auxiliary storage device for pre-recording the omitted data and location information indicating in which part of the data the omitted data is located; and

said data reading device connected to the electronic equipment via a communication line,

wherein the data reading device sends a request to the electronic equipment via the communication line for the omitted data relating to the data to read and its location information in accordance with operation inputs, and the electronic equipment transmits the omitted data and its location information ~~simultaneously or sequentially~~ in reply to the request;

the data reading device receives the omitted data and its location information to records them on the auxiliary storage section; and

thereafter, in order to sequentially transfer the data on the recording medium ~~or on the auxiliary storage section~~ to a main storage section and to sequentially decrypt the data on the main storage section on the decryption bit length basis and read it,

the location information on the auxiliary storage section is transferred to the main storage section, with reference to the location information, the omitted part of said data is recognized, and the omitted data on the auxiliary storage section is transferred to the main storage section, while the data on the recording medium ~~or on the auxiliary storage section~~ is transferred to the main storage section and the omitted data is connected to the omitted part of the data on the main storage to decrypt the data on the decryption bit length basis.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for reading data, using a data reading device for reading the data processed by the processing data method according to claim 2 and recorded in advance on a recording medium ~~or on an auxiliary storage section of the data reading device~~, and which is a system comprising:

electronic equipment having an auxiliary storage device for pre-recording the omitted data and its location information indicating in which part of the data the omitted data is located; and

said data reading device connected to the electronic equipment via a communication line,

wherein the data reading device sends a request to the electronic equipment via the communication line for the omitted data relating to the data to read and its location information in accordance with operation inputs, and the electronic equipment transmits the omitted data and their location information ~~simultaneously or sequentially~~ in reply to the request;

the data reading device receives the omitted data and its location information to record them on the auxiliary storage section; and

thereafter, in order to sequentially transfer the data on the recording medium ~~or on the auxiliary storage section~~ to a main storage section, to sequentially decrypt the data on the main storage section on a decryption bit length basis, and to restore the data from a compressed state to an original state and read it,

the location information on the auxiliary storage section is transferred to the main storage section, with reference to the location information, the omitted part of said data is recognized, and the omitted data on the auxiliary storage section is transferred to the main storage section, while the data on the recording medium ~~or on the auxiliary storage section~~ is transferred to the main storage section and the omitted data is connected to the omitted part of the data on the main storage to decrypt the data on the decryption bit length basis and restore the data from the compressed state to the original state.

8. (Previously Presented) The method for reading data according to claim 6, wherein said electronic equipment is a management means for managing the use of the data by the transmission of the omitted data and its location information.

9. (Currently Amended) The method for reading data according to claim 6, wherein the data recorded on the recording medium ~~or on the auxiliary storage section of the data reading device~~ is recorded in advance ~~on said auxiliary storage device of the electronic equipment or on another auxiliary storage device~~, and is transmitted from the electronic equipment in reply to the request by the data reading device to the electronic equipment via the communication line, and is recorded on the recording medium ~~or on the auxiliary storage section of said data reading device~~.

10. (Previously Presented) The method for reading data according to claim 6, wherein the data reading device obtains an elapsed time from a point of time when the omitted data is received, and when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined period, the data reading device deletes at least the omitted data on the auxiliary storage section.

11. (Previously Presented) The method for reading data according to claim 10, wherein the data reading device obtains an elapsed time from a point of time when the data is received, separately from the omitted data, and when the relevant elapsed time reaches a predetermined period, the data reading device deletes the data on the auxiliary storage section.

12. (Previously Presented) A recording medium wherein programs implementing the method for processing data according to claim 1 are recorded.

13. (Previously Presented) A recording medium wherein programs implementing the method for reading data according to claim 7 are recorded.

14. (Previously Presented) The method for processing data according to claim 2, further comprising the step of, after closing the omitted part so as to make the data

continuous, adding dummy data having the same bit length as that of the omitted data at the end of the data.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for processing data according to claim 14, in which the data which is omitted has a plurality of omitted data parts, wherein a product of the bit length of the omitted data and the number of omissions is a bit length different from the divisor of the decryption bit length.

16. (Previously Presented) The method for reading data according to claim 7, wherein said electronic equipment is a management means for managing the use of the data by the transmission of the omitted data and its location information.

17-24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) A digital contents illegal use prevention system for distributing a content file, comprising:

- a recording medium distribution device configured to receive the content file, wherein the content file includes,

- a header,

- a data body comprising,

- a remaining content file and

- a piece data file that includes an omitted data file;

- a recording medium that receives the header and the remaining content file associated with the data body;

- a management center having a database that receives the piece data that includes the omitted data file, the management center configured to identify an authentic user;

- a digital contents reproduction device that is configured to reproduce the content file, wherein the digital contents reproduction device includes a reproduction software module configured to read the recording medium for distribution; and

- a communications line configured to support communications between the management center and the digital contents reproduction device, wherein the management center is configured to communicate the piece data to the digital contents reproduction device after the identity of the authentic user has been confirmed.

26. (New) The digital contents illegal use prevention system of claim 25 wherein the piece data file further comprises a location for the omitted data and the management center database is configured to store the location of the omitted data.

27. (New) The digital contents illegal use prevention system of claim 26 wherein the digital contents reproduction device is a general purpose computer.

28. (New) The digital contents illegal use prevention system of claim 27 wherein the reproduction software module is downloaded from the management center.

29. (New) The digital content illegal use prevention system of claim 28 wherein the data body is encrypted.

30. (New) The digital content illegal use prevention system of claim 29 wherein the management center is further configured to collect a charge from a user.

31. (New) The digital content illegal use prevention system of claim 30 wherein the management center is further configured to send information indicating a rental period to the digital contents reproduction device.

32. (New) The digital content illegal use prevention system of claim 31 wherein the management center is further configured to transmit to the digital contents reproduction device a rejection of an application of a user if the user is not confirmed as an authentic user.